

TELEGRAM

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AN: DB00040-0907

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ACTION RP-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-06 IO-14 ADS-00 SR-04 HA-05 AID-07
TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /100 W
-----013344 240237Z /64

R 220420Z JAN 80
FM AMCONSUL PESHAWAR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 586
INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 12065: NA
TAGS: SREF AF PK
SUBJ: AFGHAN REFUGEES

1. REFUGEE CONDITIONS: I CONTINUE TO HOLD THE VIEW THAT CONDITIONS FOR AFGHANS IN PAKISTAN, WHILE NOT GOOD AND CERTAINLY RATHER CHAOTIC, ARE BY NO MEANS DESPERATE. MY VIEW WAS REINFORCED AFTER TALKING WITH "GAMMA" PHOTOGRAPHER MAUREEN LAMBRET ON JANUARY 18. MISS LAMBRET HAD JUST RETURNED FROM NORTH WAZIRISTAN AGENCY, SCENE OF LARGEST CONCENTRATION OF REFUGEES IN PAKISTAN. GOP HAD ARRANGED A CHOPPER RIDE FOR LAMBRET AND A TURKISH JOURNALIST, APPARENTLY AT PRESIDENT ZIA'S DIRECTION.

2. IN NORTH WAZIRISTAN, MISS LANDET MET HUNDREDS OF REFUGEE MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN. IN ONLY ONE INSTANCE DID SHE SEE EVIDENCE OF WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN SERIOUS MALNUTRITION. (SHE DID SEE ONE CHILD REPORTEDLY BURNED BY NAPALM.) COMPARED WITH REFUGEE CAMPS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, WHICH SHE HAS VERY RECENTLY VISITED, PHOTOGRAPHER THINKS AFGHANS ARE QUITE WELL OFF. SHE RELATED AN ANECDOTE

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TO ILLUSTRATE THIS: IN THE U.S., ONE EDITOR, POSSIBLE

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() DEWIDE MADE TS AND () G. C. CASE
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OF TIME WHERE SHE IS ON CONTRACT, RECENTLY REJECTED SEVERAL PHOTOS OF AFGHAN REFUGEES AS THEY WEREN'T APPALLING ENOUGH. INSTEAD, HE RAN A PICTURE OF PRESIDENT ZIA.

3. AT ASA KHEL CAMP, 16 MILES EAST OF HERE, CONDITIONS ARE BETTER THAN IN WAZIRISTAN, LANDRET REPORTS. WITHIN THE PAST FEW DAYS, A NUMBER OF REFUGEE-RUN SHOPS PROVIDING GOODS AND SERVICES HAVE SPRUNG UP. LANDRET TAKES THIS TO BE INDICATIVE OF A SPIRIT OF INDUSTRY AND SELF-CONFIDENCE WHICH SHE FOUND SORELY LACKING IN MANY SOUTHEAST ASIAN CAMPS. NOTE: THE NEWLY ESTABLISHED ASA KHEL CAMP IS NOW VERY MUCH THE PLACE TO SEE HERE. AMONG OTHERS, BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY LORD CARRINGTON AND CHINESE FOR MIN HUANG HOA VISITED THERE.

4. KIRGHIZ REFUGEES: SCATTERED IN AND AROUND GILGIT IN PAKISTAN'S NORTHERN AREAS ARE SEVERAL HUNDRED FAMILIES OF KIRGHIZ REFUGEES WHO FLED THEIR HOMES IN THE REMOTE WAKHAN CORRIDOR IN OCTOBER 1978. THE PASTORALIST KIRGHIZ HAD ROAMED THE HIGH PASTURES OF THE LITTLE PAMIR BEHIND THEIR AGED ANTI-COMMUNIST LEADER, RAHMAN GUL KHAN. KHAN'S SON, ABDOUL WAKIL, CALLED ON MY JANUARY 16.

5. KIRGHIZ HAVE MADE TRANSITION TO SETTLED LIFE AT LOW ELEVATION ONLY WITH CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTY, ACCORDING TO ABDOUL WAKIL. MANY OF THE THOUSANDS OF GOLDEN SHEEP, YAKS AND BACTRIAN CAMELS WHICH THEY BROUGHT IN DIED ON THE WAY TO ISHKOMEN AND GILGIT. SUBSEQUENTLY, MOST OF THE REMAINDER WERE SOLD OFF DUE TO SHORTAGE OF FOODER. IN PAKISTAN, DISEASE HAS TAKEN TOLL OF KIRGHIZ AS WELL. OVER NINETY OF THEM, INCLUDING MANY YOUNG WOMEN, HAVE DIED SINCE THEY ARRIVED. NONETHELESS, THE KIRGHIZ ARE
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COPING. MANY HAVE BOUGHT SHOPS. MOST MEN ARE EMPLOYED. GOP SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCE HAS HELPED, ALTHOUGH LAST PAYMENTS RECEIVED IN OCTOBER. CLEARLY, HOWEVER, THEY WOULD PREFER TO RETURN TO THE PAMIR, JUST AS THEIR PAKISTANAL COUNTRYMEN WISH FOR THEIR NATIVE HILLS, IF THE GOVERNMENT REGARDED AS INIMICAL TO THEIR INTERESTS, COULD ONLY BE CHANGED.
ARCHARD

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